

To register, please visit [www.mass.gov/MSAR](http://www.mass.gov/MSAR).



### Contact Us

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*During a large-scale disaster, Massachusetts  
will need the support of health care volunteers*

## BE THE RESPONSE



*A Preparedness Project Sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
and Supported by the Massachusetts Medical Society*

## What is MSAR?

MSAR, a preparedness program sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, is a statewide secure database of pre-credentialed health care professionals who are interested in volunteering their services in the event of a public health emergency.

## Why is MSAR necessary?

Recent experience with large-scale disasters has consistently shown that an effective response requires that volunteers be pre-credentialed and deployed through a coordinated effort. Well-meaning but unaffiliated volunteers who spontaneously present to disaster sites are often unable to be assigned. With limited time and resources to process volunteers, often only those with known credentials are permitted access to the disaster response. By registering with MSAR, you can be part of an alert system and respond, when activated, to a significant disaster or public health emergency.

## Who should register?

All health care professionals who wish to volunteer in the event of a public health emergency should register.

## How do I register?

You can register to volunteer by visiting the MSAR website, [www.mass.gov/MSAR](http://www.mass.gov/MSAR).



## How will MSAR work?

Once you have registered to become an MSAR volunteer, your professional credentials will be verified and you will be required to successfully complete an online orientation course. This information will become part of the MSAR statewide secure database.

MSAR may only be activated by the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health or his or her designee in the event of a public health emergency. Upon activation, an alert message will be sent to all MSAR members — or a limited pool of members — depending on the size, type, location, and specific needs of the incident — asking for volunteers to respond and giving them specific instructions on where they should report and what is needed of them. Please note that volunteers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are never under any obligation to participate in an MSAR activation.

## What will my role be in a large-scale disaster or emergency?

Every attempt will be made to match your skills, competencies, and license or registration level with your responsibilities during an MSAR response. On occasion, however, you may be asked to assist with activities that are less challenging than your usual professional activities.

## How does MSAR collaborate with MRCs?

MSAR activations will be coordinated with Massachusetts Medical Reserve Corps units (MRCs). MRCs support local public health initiatives such as emergency response, immunization, and prevention activities. MRC members are encouraged to register with MSAR to ensure that locally based resources are available in the event of a declared public health emergency. MSAR volunteers are also encouraged to consider registering with an MRC to assist in smaller, *local* events that do not initiate an MSAR activation. For more information on MRCs, please visit [www.mamedicalreservecorps.org](http://www.mamedicalreservecorps.org).

## Should I volunteer?

There are many issues to consider before volunteering for MSAR:

- Emergency response can be physically and emotionally difficult.
- You may have other family, work, or response commitments that would prevent you from responding to an activation. As previously mentioned, volunteers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are never under any obligation to participate in an MSAR activation.